

[Part I

of a pious home and the genial light of a
 godly instruc-
 tion. Nor has history been barren of
 striking examples
 of the working of conscience in children.
 The leader of
 the theistic thought in America, Theodore
 Parker, was
 but four years of age, when returning home
 from a
 church of which his father was the
 minister, he saw a little
 tortoise peeping out from the water in an
 adjoining tank.'
 He lifts up his stick, to beat the tiny
 creature; but he
 hears a voice of warning and
 remonstrance, his infant hand
 is suddenly arrested, he turns round to see
 whence the
 sound has proceeded. But finding no
 human being within
 ken, he runs home and narrates the whole
 incident to his
 mother. The worthy lady takes the boy in
 her loving arms
 and says feelingly, with tears trickling
 down her face, < 'That
voice that you have heard some men call
conscience, but I prefer
to call it the Voice of God in the soul of
man. If you listen to it
and obey it, it will speak clearer and
clearer, and always guides
you right; but if you turn a deaf ear and
disobey, then it will
fade out little by little and leave you all in
the dark. Your life
depends on your heeding this little voice."
 Men often try to hush and get rid of this

little voice, this
moral sense and they can weaken and
dilute it, but they
can never kill it. When it seems most dead,
suddenly it will
flash out in some moment of crisis with
awful power. The
moral sense under the guidance of reason
declares, as already
stated above, that certain kinds of conduct
are more worthy
or more unworthy than others, discerns
and proclaims a
distinction of transcendent importance
between them, which
distinction is marked by the words *right*
and *wrong*. This
perception that one course of conduct is
noble and the other
base, that the one is to be approved and
praised, the other
to be disapproved, and blamed, the sense
of peace in ourselves
at the one and of shame in ourselves at the
other—this moral
sense which we all have but Cannot
explain, is part of the
original make of man's nature, of our own
self. This moral